

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
August 23, 2016



Trout and Jennifer Gaskins harvesting flowers at their Newtown farm, where they now employ a new portable restroom and hand washing station purchased with a Dept. of Agriculture grant.

HELPING FARMERS COMPLY WITH NEW FSMA REGULATIONS IS FOCUS OF STATE GRANT PROGRAM

NEWTOWN - Since they started growing vegetables and flowers commercially nine years ago, Trout and Jennifer Gaskins' only source for watering and washing their crops was the well that supplies the 1800s farmhouse where they live.

The house's bathroom was also the only one available on the 3-acre farm for them and their small crew of workers.

But that all changed this season, when the Gaskins used a Department of Agriculture matching grant of just under \$3,000 to complete a new well and underground irrigation system, and to help purchase a portable restroom/hand washing station equipped with a trailer that allows them to tow it wherever needed around their certified-organic farm, called Farming 101.

"It's a big improvement over having to rely just on water from the house," Jennifer said last week as she and Trout readied a delivery of tomatoes – their signature crop – destined for customers in Fairfield County and in Westchester County just over the New York border.

The equipment was partly funded by a State Assistance For Enhancements (SAFE) grant that provides matching funds to Connecticut farmers to improve and diversify production, harvesting, processing, and manufacturing in

accordance with the new requirements of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). FSMA was originally passed by the U.S. Congress in 2011. It is the most sweeping reform of federal food safety laws in more than 70 years, aimed at preventing food-borne illness by emphasizing on-farm measures to prevent contamination.

The act's Produce Safety Rule was refined after a formal public comment process that included significant participation of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and many other stakeholders.

Full implementation of the rule will be phased over the next few years, depending on the value of covered produce harvested from an individual farm.

The SAFE grant program awarded a total of approximately \$200,000 in matching grants to more than a dozen Connecticut farms.

The program's focus was on helping farmers meet new FSMA standards through projects such as maintaining worker health and hygiene, amending existing agricultural water systems, improving soil amendment systems, improving packing areas, and creating or improving a produce-traceability program.

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	65.00	70.00
boners 80-85% lean	64.00	69.50
lean 88-90% lean	59.00	65.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	119.50	125.50
Choice 2-3	115.00	119.00
Sel 1-2	110.00	115.50
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4 few	111.50	112.00
Ch 2-3	102.00	109.50
Sel 1-2	95.00	101.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	114.00	117.50
Ch 2-3	109.00	112.00
Sel 1-2	104.00	108.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 70-128 lbs	111.00	145.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
80-90 lbs	228.00	230.00
90-110 lbs	220.00	227.00
130-150 lbs	175.00	205.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	102.00	122.00
120-160 lbs	85.00	107.00
160-200 lbs	78.00	100.00
200-300 lbs	76.00	107.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	130.00	135.00
200-300 lbs	85.00	85.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-60 lbs	190.00	240.00
60-80 lbs	260.00	295.00
80-100 lbs	275.00	315.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1, by head		
80-130 lbs	235.00	250.00
130-180 lbs	240.00	275.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
100-150 lbs	325.00	330.00
150-250 lbs	365.00	430.00
FEEDER HEIFERS - Med & Lge 1, by cwt.		
200-300 lbs	137.00	142.00
300-400 lbs	135.00	142.00
400-500 lbs	122.00	135.00
700-800 lbs	117.00	125.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	49.00	56.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	44.00	45.00
Sows, US	1-3 300-500 lbs	41.00	44.00
	500-800 lbs	45.00	46.00
Boars	200-300 lbs	31.00	34.00
	400-1000 lbs	3.00	5.00

USDA- NEAST HERB REPORT

Boston Market, wholesale, per unit, in dollars.

ARUGULA, BABY, NJ, 4LBS	12.00	13.50
BASIL, NJ, 15 BN/CRATE	18.00	19.00
CHIVES, MA, 1LB FILM BAG	8.00	10.00
DILL, NJ, 24 BUNCHES	15.00	16.00
HORSERADISH, NJ, 5 LBS	13.00	14.00
MINT, MA/NJ/NH, 12 BN	10.00	12.00
OREGANO, NJ, 12 BN PER 1LB	8.00	9.00
SAGE, NJ, 12 BNCH PER 1LB	7.00	9.00
TARRAGON, NH, 12 PER 1LB	8.00	10.00
THYME, NJ, 12 BN PER 1LB	8.00	8.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLES, GNGERGLD, LOOSE	26.00	28.00
APPLES, PAULARED, XF, 96	30.00	32.00
APPLES, PAULARED, FNCY, 96	24.00	24.00
APPLES, PAULARED, LOOSE	25.00	28.00
BEANS, GREEN, HND PK, BU	12.00	26.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	22.00	22.00
BEETS, RED, LOOSE, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
BLUEBERRIES, 12-1 PT	36.00	42.00
BLUEBERRY, NONCULT, 12-1PT	60.00	60.00
BROCCOLI, BUNCHED, 14	10.00	12.00
BROCCOLI, BNCHD 14	10.00	12.00
CABBAGE, 50 LBS	10.00	12.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTAK, 12	13.00	14.00
COLLARDS, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	18.00
CORN, SWEET, BI-COLR, 5 DOZ	8.00	12.00
CUKES, 1-1/9, SUPER SELECT	18.00	18.00
CUKES, 1-1/9, MED	14.00	15.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9	12.00	12.00
FIDDLEHEADS, 10 LBS	45.00	50.00
KALE, 12 BUNCHES/BU	12.00	13.00
PEAR, CLAPP, 4/5 BU	30.00	36.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, BU	75.00	75.00
PEPPERS, GRN BELL, 1-1/9	12.00	18.00
PEPPERS, JALEPENO, 1/2 BU	12.00	12.00
PLUM, BLUE ITALIAN, 20 LB	30.00	30.00
POTATO, RNDRED, #1, SZ A, 50LB	15.00	15.00
POTATO, RNDWHT, #1CHEF, 50LB	14.00	18.00
POTATO, RUSST, #1, 70-90, 50 LB	15.00	17.00
RHUBARB, FIELD GRWN, 20	35.00	35.00
SQUASH, ACORN/BTTNT, 1-1/9	14.00	18.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2 BU	10.00	20.00
SQUASH, YLLW, MED, 1/2 BU	9.00	18.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, 1/2 BU	7.00	12.00
TOMATOES, 20 LBS	22.00	28.00
TOMATOES, XL, 25 LBS	22.00	24.00
TOMS, PLUM, ROMA, 25 LBS	13.00	14.00

CT FARMERS' MARKET REPORT

APPLES, PAULARED, 1/2 PECK	3.00	3.00
APPLES, GNGERGLD, 1/2 PECK	3.00	3.00
BEANS, GREEN, PER LB	3.00	3.00
BEANS, WAX, PER LB	1.50	1.50
BEETS, W/TOPS, PER BUNCH	4.00	4.00
BLACKBERRIES, PER 1/2 PINT	3.00	3.00
CABBAGE, 2 HEADS	3.00	3.00
CORN, EACH	.50	.50
CUKES, 2	1.00	1.00
CUKES, PICKLING, 3	1.00	1.00
EGGPLANT, 1SM	1.00	1.00
EGGPLANT, 1 QUART	2.00	2.00
GARLIC, 2 HEADS	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, CHERRY HOT, PT	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, CHERRY HOT, 4	1.00	1.00
PEPPERS, LONG HOT, 4	1.00	1.00
PEPPERS, BELL, XL, EACH	1.00	1.00
PEPPERS, POBLANO, EACH	.75	.75
POTATO, RND WHT, LB	1.00	1.00
POTATO, RND RED, LB	1.00	1.00
TOMATOES, MED, 4	3.00	3.00
TOMATOES, LARGE, EACH	1.00	1.00

USDA ORGANIC BROWN EGGS

Wholesale, per carton, delivered to first receivers.

XLARGE DOZEN	2.61	3.61
XLARGE 1/2 DOZEN	1.80	1.95
LARGE DOZEN	2.30	3.50
LARGE 1/2 DOZEN	1.71	1.90

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - August 22, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	70.00	75.00
76-90 lbs.	77.50	82.50
91-105 lbs.	87.50	92.50
106 lbs. & up	95.00	97.50
Farm Calves	115.00	130.00
Starter Calves	52.00	55.00
Veal Calves	90.00	160.00
Open Heifers	n/a	n/a
Beef Heifers	75.00	93.00
Feeder Steers	90.00	105.00
Beef Steers	83.50	110.00
Stock Bulls	110.00	130.00
Beef Bulls	84.50	11.700
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	1@	.70/lb
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	75.00	350.00
Lambs each	95.00	190.00
Goats each	120.00	360.00
Kid Goats each	70.00	220.00
Canners	up to	67.50
Cutters	68.00	70.00
Utility Grade Cows	71.50	74.00
Rabbits each	6.00	17.50
Chickens each	3.00	18.00
Ducks each	3.00	14.00

Auction is open Labor Day, Sept. 5

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.67	.98
LARGE	.61	.75
MEDIUM	.37	.50

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.13	1.26
LARGE	1.03	1.17
MEDIUM	.53	.64
SMALL	.32	.42

USDA NEAST REGION CUTFLOWERS

Wholesale, per unit, in dollars.

ACONITUM, NE, 10	14.00	14.00
ALLIUM, NJ, LONG, EA	.65	.85
AMRNTHUS, PA, HANG, 514.00		14.00
DAHLIA, LGE, PA/NE, BN	8.50	15.00
DELPHINIUM, NJ, 10	10.00	10.00
FEVERFEW, NJ, BN	8.50	8.50
GLADIOLA, STD, NJ, 10	7.50	8.50
GOMPHRENA, NJ/PA, BN	7.50	7.50
LILY, OR, ME, 2-3BL, 10	20.00	20.00
LISIANTHUS, NE, 10	17.50	18.00
QN ANNE'SLACE, PA, BN	7.00	7.50
SCABIOSA, PA, 10	8.50	8.50
SEDUM, NJ/NE, BUNCH	7.50	8.50
SNAPDRAGON, NE, 10	7.50	7.50
SUNFLWR, LGE, NJ/PA, 5	6.50	7.50
SUNFLWR, MINI, PA, 10	7.50	7.50
YARROW, PA, BN	7.50	8.50
ZINNIA, PA, 10	6.50	7.50

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

67-R. 99 Dart Hill Road, South Windsor. 5.5 acres, Rural Residential. Fully approved building lot with sewer available, well required. Ideal for horses, ambitious gardener, agricultural or home business. 800 foot driveway. Creative owner financing available. \$248,000.00. Annette Griffin, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services N.E. Properties. 860-604-7845.

78-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Farm, commercial, life insurance, and more. Cell: 860-377-8947 to see how Nationwide compares.

85-R. 8 yearling Baldy steers. 8 open yearling Baldy heifers. 4 bred Baldy heifers due August. 860-485-5720.

WANTED

86-R. Orchard Opportunity. Drazen Orchards located on 30 acres in Cheshire, growing apples, peaches, pears and plums is seeking energetic farm foreman to help oversee all aspects of our current operation and ongoing expansion. Experience in orchard practices, operation of equipment and mechanical aptitude required. Additional opportunity for a farm couple which could include management and further development of existing retail and PYO operation with potential of on farm housing. Please only respond by email: edrazen1@gmail.com

87. Wanted: Anvil for a John Deere #5 sickle bar mower. Please call 860-745-7019.

88. A part-time Office Secretary position is available at the New Haven County Farm Bureau. The applicant should be able to maintain a small office in the home. The job averages 12 to 15 hours per week. A background or interest in agriculture will be viewed positively. The candidate will be responsible to the organization's board of directors. The candidate should be well organized with excellent interpersonal skills, fundamental computer skills, and the ability to work independently. Duties include: Overall management of the functions of the office, maintaining financial records and organizing meetings. For a complete job description please call the office at 203 269-0151. Compensation will be based on experience. Please send resume and cover letter explaining why you are interested in the position to New Haven County Farm Bureau Inc., 2393 Boston Post Road, Guilford CT 06437 by September 19, 2016.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

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"The Department created this grant program because of the very clear need to support farmers making efforts to enhance and diversify their operations in accordance with approved FSMA regulations," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said. "Assisting farmers in making infrastructure and operational improvements on farms covered by FSMA is in line with the Dept. of Agriculture's philosophy of educating before and while we regulate."

Farmers were required to match at least 50-percent of the grants, which were capped at \$25,000. The grant was funded through the Community Investment Act, under the department's Farm Transition grant program.

For the Gaskins, the grant allowed them to take yet another step in their steady transformation of a farm that once covered 80 acres, until most of it was subdivided for houses in the 1950s.

"It hadn't been farmed in many years but we could see the potential," said Trout, a former commercial photographer.

Among the improvements they have completed are the installation of a ten-foot high deer fence around the property, and the restoration of a badly-eroded hillside behind the house where they planted a stone-fruit orchard including apples, peaches, pears, apricots and cherries.

The couple is also in the process of building a barn that will house a water-storage tank and other parts of the new irrigation system, as well as a produce storage and packing room. All storage, packing and seed propagation is now done inside their home.

"From April to October we have tomatoes all over the house," said Jennifer, whose background is in corporate accounting and finance.

Offering more than 40 varieties of heirloom tomatoes, as well as a few hybrids, the Gaskins say they have built a loyal customer base centering on the weekend Greenwich Farmers' market, as well as deliveries to small, niche restaurants, private chefs and individual customers.

They also sell cut flowers, a few varieties of greens, and fresh eggs from their small flock of chickens. Their approach has been influenced by their visits to farms on the West Coast, where they say there is a deep, historic tradition of farmers encouraging relationships and interaction with their customers.

Jennifer said she has seen that tradition taking hold in Connecticut in recent years, and believes that FSMA will only encourage it.

"I think the rules are going to be helpful to producers and to customers," she said. "So many customers now want to know more about the quality and the safety of the products they are buying. For us, that means we want to be compliant with all the rules."

So where did they come up with the name Farming 101?

"We were new farmers when we started," Trout explained with a smile, "and this is 101 Brushy Hill Road so it fit."

NO WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT NEXT WEEK

Publication will resume Sept. 6



Top: Trout Gaskins works on irrigation equipment he is installing in the basement of a barn he is building at his Newtown farm. **Above:** 12-pound boxes of tomatoes harvested at the farm ready for delivery.



2016 ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE REIMBURSEMENT AVAILABLE

The Dept. of Agriculture is applying for a USDA cost-sharing grant that would reimburse Connecticut Certified Organic Growers/Processors for a portion of their annual certification fee. Reimbursements will cover 75-percent of the certification cost, up to a maximum \$750. The program is administered on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

Deadline for applications is Sept. 30, and must include:

- **A copy of the farm's 2016 Certification Certificate from an accredited certifier**
- **Certification Application Financial Form**
- **W-9 Form and SP-26 Form (included in application)**

Please send this information to:

**Organic Certification Reimbursement
Connecticut Department of Agriculture
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 129
Hartford, CT 06106**

For more information, contact Rick Macsuga at Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov or 860-713-2544

MISPRINTED SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM CHECKS ARE VALID

A small number of \$3 checks issued through the state's Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program bear misprinted check numbers and bank routing codes but are valid for payment.

The numbers appear upside-down and backwards on the checks. Any producer who receives one at a farmers' market may accept it as payment, but should forward it to the Dept. of Agriculture without depositing it and a replacement check will be issued.

For more information, contact Rick Macsuga at Richard.Macsuga@ct.gov or 860-713-2544

CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE EVENT SEPT. 26

The 15th annual Celebrating Agriculture event will be held Saturday, Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Woodstock Fairgrounds on Route 169 in Woodstock. The free event attracts dozens of exhibitors and vendors and encourages education and participation in farming, forestry and all facets of agriculture, and features hay rides, food and children's entertainment. More information is available by contacting the Danielson USDA Service Center at (860) 779-0557, ext. 1, or at:

www.celebratingagriculture.org

Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

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